

Appl. No. 10/656,582
Amdt. dated August 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2005

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6. This sheet, which includes Fig. 6 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 7-18 are pending. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. New claims 7-18 have been added. The title, abstract, and drawings have also been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 2-4 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Original claims 2-4 have been rewritten as new claims 16-18. Thus, claims 16-18 are allowable.

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue et al. (US 6,400,531).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 5 as amended are novel and patentable over Inoue et al. because, for instance, Inoue et al. does not teach or suggest a first protective film formed above an end face of an air outlet of a slider mounting the magnetic head for protecting the retrieving unit and the writing unit, and a second protective film formed above the first protective film.

Inoue et al. discloses protective films 41, 42 in Fig. 3 and an enlarged view is shown in Fig. 1. The protective films 41, 42 are formed on the air bearing surface (ABS) (see column 4, lines 7-14), which corresponds to the slider's floating surface in the present application opposing the recording medium. The protective films 41, 42 are not formed above an end face of the air outlet of the slider mounting the magnetic head.

The protective layer in Inoue et al. is composed of SiN film and a surface-lubricous layer thereon for the purposes of replacing the conventional DLC layer formed on the ABS of the slider. This is to reduce space loss between the magnetic head and the recording medium while maintaining mechanism strength and adhesion.

In contrast, the protective films in the present invention may cancel the load deformation of the magnetic head caused by the environmental temperature, and further, to effectively reduce the projecting quantity of the magnetic head from the floating surface.

Therefore, Inoue et al. fails to teach or suggest the structure as well as the benefits of the present invention.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1 and 5, and claims 2-4 and 7-15 depending therefrom, are novel and patentable over Inoue et al.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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